Portugal must not become another Chile

ONE SOLUTION - WORKERS' REVOLUTION

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS

Demonstrate!
Saturday 20 September, 2pm
Charing Cross Embankment, London WC2

STOP THE BOSSES' ECONOMIC BOYCOTT
Ireland: Thieves fall ill

Not since St Paul saw the light on the road to Damascus has there been such a dramatic conversion. William Craig, once a hard-line Ulster Loyalist, is now an apostle of moderation. His words are a source of hope for many in the North.

RICKY TOMLINSON spoke at a meeting of 200 people in London on Monday called in solidarity with the 14 defendants who have been charged with conspiracy to break the Incitement to Disaffection Act. Their 'crime' was to distribute leaflets to soldiers calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

Ricky delighted the meeting with an ironic and anger account of the persecution of the Shrewsbury piddlers under the Conspiracy laws. At Preston Crown Court on Monday Andrew Lloyd, a 31-year-old lecturer from Leeds, went on trial for possession of the leaflet that the 14 others are charged with conspiring to distribute to soldiers.

Andrew Lloyd’s ‘crime’ is that he had a copy of the leaflet in his home. If such a charge were brought in Russia, of course, all British newspapers would be making it their headline news. Civil liberties at home are another matter. They’re only too happy to trampe into their dust.

On Tuesday Andrew went into the witness box. He explained that he believed that all soldiers should be allowed to think for themselves. They should, he insisted, be allowed to join a union. If they did not and if they were expected to obey orders without question, he told the court, then what you could end up with was Nazism or fascism; Chilean-style.

The 14 pacificists are due to go on trial at the Old Bailey at the end of this month. Andrew’s case has been put on first to get the leaflet ruled illegal so that they can then be hit hard on conspiracy.

The platform was a lively one, with Ricky Tomlinson, Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, John Miller, TUC national secretary, who chaired the meeting, George Andrews, president of the AUEW North London district, Jack Dromey, chairman of the National Council for Civil Liberties, Wendy Rustin, a défendante in the case, and Pat Arrowsmith, who went to jail for 10 months for incitement to disaffection two years ago.

John Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield Brightside, and Paul Young, who also spoke at the meeting, which collected £15 15 for the defence funds.

Delegates are silenced

It is amazing the lengths some sections of trade union officialdom will go to avoid commitment to the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland. This became clear at last week’s report-back meeting to the Greater London Association of Socialists of its delegation to Northern Ireland. There was much pressure from the delegation for questioning the possibility of solving Northern Ireland’s problems while British troops remained, even if ‘withdrawn to barracks’ instead of being ‘pansy’ of a ‘Bill of Rights’. But they were not allowed to put their questions to the meeting. Every sort of bureaucratic trick was used by the platform to stop the apology.

The shameless behaviour of such people must dishearten all who campaign for other trade union bodies in other parts of the country to interfere with Northern Ireland. They can provide the necessary leadership and ammunition needed to hammer home the case for getting the troops out.

West—voted to withdraw the offer, the move ended the SDLP agreement

Faulkner and Craig are now trying to salvage the accord for the allegience of the various Loyalist organisations, political and paramilitary and this is being presented as the left’s first line of defence against the so-called paramilitary juggernaut. If the accord is not saved then nothing will be achieved.

In part it is a personal power battle. For the rest, it is a disagreement between those who see the window-dressing of SDLP men in the IRA as an obstacle and those who would, or would not, smooth the way for the eventual return of Orange rule.

Bombs

The British Labour government wants Craig to win. A couple of SDLP ‘ministers’ would make it 12 and Labour’s democracy had been ushered in by Good Friday.

But British socialists should not be fooled. Just as a worker on the board of directors of a society that has the nature of private industry, so a soldier is one of the key decisions of the Northern Ireland state. That can only be done by ending the state and the army, and, from there, starting, getting the British troops out.

Delegates are silenced

IMPACT

Last week the Photo
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The results were as welcome to us at the time of writing. They’re on 2294.7, which is good but not enough. We need more donations. We’ve had from North London District of Socialists— who have sent £30 collected at a public meeting and £15 from a friend. This just shows to go show the kind of support that can be made on the £990 target by one district alone which really takes us somewhere.

We’re hoping to have the photoprinting equipment installed in the next few weeks. We hope you do your donations now if we’re to be able to pay.

READERS

We extend our greetings as another team to join Park and Craig in this country, the official Ulster Unionist Party. So, the Minister for Home Affairs is in his publicity role. Moderate statements. He has little experience of such things.

In 1965 Craig led the opposition to moves by Northern Ireland Prime Minister Terence O’Neill to recognise the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Craig was, and still is, an implacable anti-Irish as any old-time politician.

As Minister in charge of transport in the mid-1960s, Craig denounced the profitable Ulster Bus Company and sold off five state-owned hotels to the Grand Metropolitan Group at give-away prices.

He was Minister for Home Affairs in the 1965-67 period, boss of the RUC, and the B-Specials—the Civil Rights Movement gathered strength. He personally signed the order banning the 5 October march through Derry that year—the march which ended in baton charges and street battles and detonated the present troubles. In Stormont afterwards he blamed the violence on the IRA, which hardly existed at the time, and on an alleged ‘Trotskyist conspiracy hatched in London’.

Craig: Former boss of B-Specials

PROTEST AT NHS BACKING FOR ANTI-ABORTIONISTS

FORTY men and women, many of them doctors and medical students, supported a picket organised by the National Abortion Campaign outside the British Postgraduate Medical Federation building in London last Thursday.

They were protesting at the use of National Health Service Funds to pay the expenses—about £16 a head—of doctors going to a conference organised by a front organisation for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) in Birmingham last weekend. The conference, officially sponsored by the recently formed British Section of the World Federation of Doctors who Respect Human Life, and the topics to be discussed included abortion, euthanasia, and medical confidentiality.

This is no ordinary medical educational conference—the speakers are all members of the executive of SPUC. The first, Dr M Sim, a psychiatrist, holds that there are no psychiatric grounds for abortion. The second, Professor Hugh McLaren is professor of obstetrics in Birmingham and is responsible for Birmingham having been far the fastest NHS abortion rate in the country.

To cap it all, Jill Knight, MP for Edgbaston, will be guest of honour at the conference dinner—the Jill Knight who respects human life so much that she was passionately opposed to the 1972 Abortion Reform Bill, to Hangover band in the House of Commons.

How is it that Barbara Castle and the Department of Health could agree to finance, out of NHS funds, a conference which is aimed to be a focus for doctors to campaign for more restrictive laws on abortion?
WHAT WE THINK

Party full of Prentices

The row over Reg Prentice and the Newham parliamentary seat is about whether working-class interests are subordinated by opponents of working-class interests. That is why trade unionists from the area were right to heckle Prentice last week.

Prentice is, in terms of his views, a Tory. Not surprisingly, the local Tory Party have said they will support him at the next election if he’s pronounced ‘independent Labour’. Prentice’s theme is ‘law and order’ and ‘the silent majority’; slogans popularised by two American Tories—Richard Nixon (another crook) and Spiro Agnew (another proven crook).

Prentice’s favourite targets are the Clay Cross councillors, members of his own party, and Shrewsbury pits. Their crime? Attempting to defend the working class against the Tory government and the building trade employers. These are intolerable offences in the eyes of Reg Prentice—and Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams and the rest.

A person who behaves as Prentice has behaved is commonly called a scab. And a scab puts himself outside the working-class movement. That is why we can say that Reg Prentice belongs. No doubt his Tory friends will agree.

But Prentice is not simply a creation of the press barons. He is a member of the Labour Cabinet. And in substance his views are not very different from those of the majority of his colleagues.

Look at their record on the Clay Cross councils and the pits. Their policy of course differs from the shredder and more important right-wingers chiefly in possessing a grossly swollen head and an insatiable appetite for praise from the capitalist press and TV. Let no one suppose that the sanitary operation of disposing of garbage in Newham North-East changes the nature of the Labour Party.

That Party breeds Prentices all the time: big Prentices, stupid Prentices and clever Prentices. Prentices in parliament and Prentices in town halls.

The majority of Labour MPs support Prentice. Maybe his own stupidity and arrogance will eventually force them to sacrifice him, as they were forced to sacrifice Rayner in 1973.

But the ‘silent majority’ of Prentices on the Labour benches remains. These supporters of the capitalist system run the Labour Party, whatever its annual conference may say.

FIGHT ON

We know there are still a fair number of rank and file Labour Party members who oppose the state of affairs. Their efforts to change it have so far been of limited success. But we have to be honest and say that they have no chance of success.

There is only one way to break the power that the Prentices of this world hold within the working-class movement: We have to build a new workers’ party based on different principles to those of the Labour Party. And that means a revolutionary party based on the mass movement of the working class.

That means a revolutionary party based on the strength and militancy of rank and file workers, not on the ‘rhetoric of government’. (The word ‘rhetoric’ differs from the shrewder and more important right-wingers chiefly in possessing a grossly swollen head.)

by Bob Light and Michael Fern
IF anyone out there still believes what they read in the papers, they should read the report of Thursday night’s East Ham Town Hall meeting—about the ‘pickets at Bow’ and their terrifying incursions into the lives of Bow residents. As usual, the ‘left-wing’ socialists toil to separate public life and the streets from their personal lives.

So wages don’t cause inflation

BEHIND all the government’s arguments for the £6 freeze lies the claim that ‘excessive’ wage rises have caused inflation. The lie is exposed by figures given in the latest issue of Labour Research.

The bulletin gives estimates of the buying power of the average wage packet for the past 18 months in terms of December 1973 money. In December 1973, it would buy £37.17 worth of goods. This fell to £35.71 during the three-week strike, then rose through the year to £38.75 at the end of 1974.

Since then real wages have been falling. By June, the value of the wage packet had fallen to £35.26—less than in the three-week day. And that was before the £6 limit was imposed. Whoever caused rising prices, it was not us!

WILL THEY ARREST MAUDLING?

THREE months ago, Socialist Worker carried a front page lead story about Tony (Foreign Affairs) spokesman, Reginald Maudling, and the Police scandal.

We revealed:

That the police had recommenced investigation of Maudling in connection with a Police-aided hospital in Malta.

That the Director of Public Prosecutions had refused to prosecute until further information was available about the contract was obtained from a Dr Kenneth Williamson, a director of one of Maudling’s companies.

That the police attempts to interview Williams in Saudi Arabia, where he is a consultant to the King, had been blocked.

That the police inquiries centred around a £5000 ‘bribe’ paid by Maudling to a firm of French engineers to gain a Maltese businessman called John Abela.

That Abela was later sentenced at the trial of John Abela, who was subsequently pardoned by the Labour government.

Scotland Yard detectives have been prevented from going to Malta to interview Abela. They are attending Abela’s trial in Malta to see if any new facts emerge.

They will be forced to come to the decision which has already been made. Will they be arrested?

Watch this space—where you get the news first.

So wages don’t cause inflation

Nothing from Shirley Williams about inflation and rising prices, and how Newham families are supposed to cope.

Nothing from Tom Jackson about how the £6 wage freeze will affect ordinary working families.

Nothing from handsome Roy, one-time Education Minister, about education in Newham, which has the second lowest level in the country.

One half-pint dirty and ugly exhibitionist in the audience who reminded Jenkins that he had let trade unionists rot in prison, was firmly put in his place by a Prentice supporter who shouted back that the trade unions were raping the country anyway. Prentice is a TORIES in the English Working Class.

To the chants of ‘Free Des Warren’, one Tory shouted ‘He’s a nigger’s he!’ Another said that he should stay in prison for life. Another screamed ‘God Des Warren!’ This is the type of support that Prentice gets from his followers.

But one thing we do agree with Prentice about: the amount of stooging going on at the meeting. That was obvious. Prentice had people drafted in from Highgate Village, High Wycombe and other such middle-class enclaves. Most of them didn’t even know the way to the Town Hall. They looked as though they would be more at home at Ascot than in East Ham.

We also recognised a whole party of Tories under Whithamson, the pro-Conservative candidate. They were of course cheering Reg on.
Electricians' Union stings militant for court costs

When ballot papers were issued in the 1976 executive election of the Electricians' Union, they contained a preamble signed by the then general secretary, Frank Chapple. This attacked the left-wing candidates and was considered by many left-wing members and several candidates to be an infringement of the rules.

Fred Gore, who had been narrowly defeated in that election, sought a legal injunction defacing the results invalid. The judge indicated that the union should think again. But no injunction was granted.

The next step would have been to take the matter to a trial. But the union could not afford to do this, and few if any working-class people can even contemplate the legal gamble.

But this was not the end of the story. On the last day of the union's conference this year, and in the run-up to fresh union elections, Fred Gore was informed by his wife, who had written to him for advice, that the union had been sued for £4,700. In the meantime, Fred's solicitor, Mr. John Blair, was also demanding £600.

If he had been able to pay the £2,300, Fred Gore would have been put in a most disadvantageous position. The union would simply have transferred the £3,500 owed on to his union card as arrears and lapsed him. All of a sudden M P Blair's opponent in the new executive elections would have been 'ineligible to stand'.

However by various loans from rank and file militants in the union, Gore was able to avoid being lapsed and the election is going ahead.

For Gore one considerable burden still remains. He now has to repay the £2,300 loans.

Can the 'big man' afford democracy?

by Brian Parkin (AUEW-TASS)

A TERRIBLE thing happened at the executive council meeting of the draughtsmen's union (TASS) a couple of weeks ago. There was an argument.

Now, arguments are almost unheard of on this body, which is known mainly for its staunch devotion to 'the line'. Ken Gill, the union's general secretary, was away, and his deputy John Forrester had some difficulty keeping order. Eventually he shut everyone up with the startling statement: 'When the big man gets back he'll expect this item to be settled. If it's not, there'll be hell to pay.'

What was the problem? It seems that the 'big man' and his colleagues are worried about the union conference. You see, over the past few years an annual conference made up of one delegate from each branch, each of which is allowed two motions and unlimited amendments, has tended to get out of hand.

In 1974, a substantial number of delegates supported a reference back of proposals for amalgamation into the Engineers' Union (AUEW) which they regarded as undemocratic. Last year, the executive failed to get a two-thirds majority for their proposals to reorganize the divisions and cut the theatre of the executive.

Clearly, there is far too much democracy in the TASS conference for the executive to get their way. So they suggest that delegates should come to a decision not from their branch but from the regional councils. Branches would submit motions to the councils, but councils could then select which one they wanted to pass on to conference.

KEN GILL: Described as the 'big man' on his executive union.

If we want to save money, we shouldn't save it on democracy. We could start by having a close look at the salaries, free cars, expense accounts and subsidized housing enjoyed by our officials.

Decline

The attack on the branch and on branch life in the union  runs side by side with a sharp decline in industrial activity. Militancy in the union seems to be confined to the rhetoric of officials at union conferences. The same officials are telling mass meetings of members that wage claims are excessive. Yet in the TASS Journal we can read articles—usually by left-wing wagehogs such as Joe Ashton MP or Anthony Wedgwood Benn—that the workers must defend their living standards.

All these people, together with the TASS leadership, see no place for the self-activity of workers in the struggle to create a fundamental shift in the control of society . . .

The defence of a branch delegate conference must now become the focus around which we start to fight back for democracy in the union and for a real fight-back on wages, redundancies, equal pay, combine organisation.

Socialist Worker members and supporters will be meeting in Leeds on Saturday 27 September to make out a programme to lay the foundations for rank and file opposition to the bureaucratic carve-up of TASS.
WHY THEY MEAN MORE BATTERED BABIES

by Chris Gunter (NALGO)

It looks as if we're in for another bout of press hysteria about baby battering. Last Friday's Daily Mirror devoted its front page to a heart-rending picture of Neil Hawlett, a baby battered to death by his mother. Relatives and friends were quoted as saying that they had pleaded with welfare authorities to take the baby away from his mother, who had been "let off" with a suspended prison sentence.

As with the Maria Colwell case earlier this year, the Mirror and the rest of the press had an easy entry into this episode here in prison for as long as possible. Or castigate an 'inefficient' social worker. Anything except to grapple with the real reasons why people batter their children.

I am a social worker in inner London. Last week I took care of the child of a woman who, in desperation, pleaded with me: 'Take them away!'

She is homeless, and squatting. She had never received a benefit from the Greater London Council and her electricity cut off because her social security money wasn't enough to pay the bill. The only way she could pay the bill was to go out and work, which meant that she had to hand her children over to the local authority.

Earlier in the week, I interviewed a deserted mother of four whose back was black and blue after a rare visit from her husband. She is living in a decaying block of flats, where she was 'temporarily' placed by the local authority five years ago.

A few weeks ago she spent an entire weekend cleaning sewage out of her bathroom.

LEFT

The strain, the hunger, the filth, the noise—these are the reasons why people batter babies. These problems aren't solved by heavy prison sentences or abuse in the press. They're solved by tackling the problems of poverty in our society.

And that's where the real hypocrisy comes in. While the press demands more responsibility from the social services departments for battered babies, they forget to point out that the government is cutting back on spending on social services departments and nursery schools.

A home building programme for nursery schools would transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of desperate parents. But the government has said that there must be a moratorium on building such schools!

In Southwark social services officers want the 134 social workers left out of 380. The director of social services for Bromley was quoted saying the other day that he had 350 social workers—but he needed 850 if families such as that of Neil Hawlett are to be visited for even half an hour a week.

So when next you see Tony MP or local newspaper readers shout for cuts in public expenditure remember what they mean, those cuts. More battered babies.

For social workers like me and for people's social services like Maria Colwell and Neil Hawlett, this is just another case conference with round tables. They are the horrifying, inevitable results of social and emotional stress in a society which produces profits and not for need.

Phones padlocked

TELEPHONES in ambulance stations all over Essex have been padlocked to stop the men making personal calls.

The move was ordered by the Essex Area Health Authority as part of its plan to cut spending—"a terrific increase" in phone bills. Now, all members of the Public Employees Union (NEUE) are being forced back by refusing to answer daytime telephone calls in the 28 affected stations.

Meanwhile the Health Authority is planning a new administrative building costing £15 million. That's public money, too.

It's only a 3-mile walk!

SURREY County Council is cracking down on free bus rides to schools. They have issued a circular insisting that no one lives within three miles of school should be allowed free travel.

Last week they sent a council official out with a pedometer to measure the distance between the village of Englefield Green and the Magna Carta School, Egham. He managed to make the journey past within the three miles. So free bus rides for all the schoolchildren in the village have now been cancelled.

The fare for each child each week is £1.60. Many families are now forced to keep children back from school because they can't afford the fares.

womens voice

...and builders show how to fight them

WORKERS who don't want to see what they do about social service cuts can take a lead from 100 building workers in South Wales, who have blacked all work on a hospital's wing until the government increases the number of children's beds.

The hospital is the new Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire.

Roy Barnett, local electricians' union branch secretary, who works at the hospital, says: 'We took a lead from the Daily Mirror story.

There are 100,000 people meant to be served by this hospital. There are 340 general beds and 114 for old people, added to 40 more for old people in another smaller hospital.

But there are only ten beds for the whole of hospital, compared to 24 in the hospital it's replacing.'

There's been a number of complaints and demonstrations from parents, but no sign of action. The story was seen, nothing was done about it, so the hospital would be built and that would be the end of the thing.

Well, we had a meeting—not of any particular union just as workers whose children would have to use the hospital. We realised that if our children can't go to this hospital, they've got to go 40 miles to Carmarthen. And unless you're really well off, you can't afford to do that. So they decided that they would come down to Haverfordwest, and if they were stopped, they would build the hospital themselves.

So we decided that we wouldn't do any more work on the ward until they decided to put in the extra beds, and that if they didn't put in the beds the place is black. 24 and we start work again.'

A spokesman from the Welsh Office in Cardiff told Socialist Worker: 'We're meeting the Health Authority next week to discuss the extra beds in the hospital. But I assure you that has nothing to do with us."

Roy Barnett has the final word: 'Well, at least it's doing something. I'd like to see this story repeated all over the country so that other workers can take action to improve our schools and hospitals.'

SEPTEMBER ISSUE out now!

Women's Voice is the only women's paper that campaigns against the government cuts, that will defend the workers' resolution on Faslane, that interviewed Rose Davis, wife of George Davis, jailed for 5 years for a crime he didn't commit.

You can get copies of Women's Voice at 50p from your regular seller of Socialist Worker or by writing to: Women's Voice, 8 Corbyn Street, London E2. Price 6p plus 6p postage. All proceeds to the Newham Women's Collective.
Beware the Princes of the left!

IN the past two issues of Socialist Worker this column has looked at the history of the Labour Party's left and the role of its left wing in particular. It is a wretched history, a history of betrayals and defences.

But, of course, that is not in itself decisive. Today's Labour Left can, and often do, acknowledge weaknesses in the Party’s existence, and its 17-year odd years as its (or her) Britannia Uncompromising (which we have now moved one inch towards socialism). But, like history, there is always another side to it. History, after all, never repeats itself. This time around, the Labour Left can really impose socialist policies on a Labour government and no one outside the Labour Left will stop them. Because “left-wing” policies were actually imposed on Labour’s right wing in the period of opposition to the Heath government and because they have a proven way to the left among the trade union leaderships. That is what is being said by many Labour Lefts.

A socialist challenge has recently come to the forefront of British politics with the election of a moderate Labour government in 1974,” writes Stuart Holland, Tony Benn’s biographer. In his recent book The Socialism Challenge, Labour’s Programme 1973 and the two major elections of 1974, Benn describes a strategy which makes possible a democratic transition to socialism in this country.

And John Gollan, general secretary of the Communist Party, takes up the other point in the latest issue of his Party’s theoretical journal: “Perhaps the biggest single change in the political scene is the advance of the left and its effect on the local Labour parties.”

In Britain, the progressive Labour Left, that has held the Labour Party in the welfare state, has now moved one inch towards socialism. But, like history, there is always another side to it. History, after all, never repeats itself. This time around, the Labour Left can really impose socialist policies on a Labour government and no one outside the Labour Left will stop them. Because “left-wing” policies were actually imposed on Labour’s right wing in the period of opposition to the Heath government and because they have a proven way to the left among the trade union leaderships. That is what is being said by many Labour Lefts.

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AFM’s ROLE IS OVER SAYS AFM OFFICER

It is necessary to know how to lose Blasios. You can’t transform an army from the inside—withe the support of Captain Matos Gomes summed up his feelings to the French paper Le Monde last week. He had just been removed from his position in the Amadora barracks because of his opposition to the right-wing officers.

The hierarchy want to re-establish military, a sort of return to the army’s own powers. But the soldiers, the sergeants and the non-commissioned officers are fighting for their rights. They have chosen their own political option of fighting to maintain and develop democratic life in the barracks, to impose assemblies in the military units, and to confront the power that tries to stop the revolutionary process.

This will not be possible unless we link our battle with that of the workers and neighbourhood committees. Support from the popular rank and file organisations of the 60 000 soldiers organised in the barracks can allow us to change the structure of the army. Matos Gomes went on to say that he no longer believed that the present army could be the ‘people in uniform’.

The Armed Forces Movement no longer exists. Born by the same contradictions as Portuguese society, it has collapsed. The anti-fascist phase is over. The AFM has accomplished its historical role. Now is the time to choose: to stop in one’s tracks and accept a social democratic neo-capitalism, or to go forward to socialism, under no other choice.

He said that Matos Antunes and the group of nine ‘moderate’ officers who refused to submit to the new line have disappeared. But we know that in Portugal today that means increased oppression of the workers. That is why the social democracy of the ‘men’ is only a transition towards fascism.

For the first time in many months big business interests in Europe and America have been expressing satisfaction over events in Portugal.

For the new prime minister, Admiral Vasco, has been forming a government committed to protecting private investment, ‘restoring authority’ and membership of NATO, and close links with the Common Market.

The proposed government is dominated by the pro-NATO Socialist Party and the right-wing Popular Democrats. But it is claimed a Communist Party member, Admiral Vasco has pledged to the Socialist Party that it will display the same willingness to have the support of the Popular Democrats.

All the high command in the armed forces has been involved in support of this plan. Officers who were quarrelling about how they would run the country three months ago are now agreed that they must stick to their differences in order to crack down on the workers’ movement.

They claim that they have to act quickly in order to prevent further advances by the extreme right, led by expresident Spinola. The prime minister told a delegation from the Moors UDP last week that otherwise there would be a coup by supporters of Spinola. But the support which Spinola is able to enjoy in the north of Portugal among small landowners is a result of the economic crisis.

Portugal is one of the more isolated right-wing extremists among the officers, who have succeeded in forcing out their former commander Carvalho, for his left-wing views. Wednesday’s demonstration showed that the rank and file do not support officers’ views.

In at least one barracks the officers locked the doors to stop the rank and file joining the demonstration.

For the right-wing, who like to think of Oporto as one of their strongholds, the demonstration was a big rebuff.

Well-dressed members of the Communist Party, although the Communist Party gave public support to the demonstration.

In a leaflet distributed in the barracks before the demonstration, the officers stated:

In recent weeks we have been fighting hard for better conditions in the barracks and against reaction. We have been fighting for better pay, for better accommodation, for the right to refuse reactionary orders, for a proper right to free speech.

We have had our victories and our defeats. We have learnt that our forces can only be effective through unity and organisation.

Club

‘Our fight is part of the great struggle for popular power, for power over the workers.

The gentleness in gold-braid epaulettes do not wish to lose their privileges. We rely on you to say no to the military coups. We will be fighting for better pay, for better conditions, for our rights.

The soldiers always, on the left, always with the people.’

One of the sergeants told me after the demonstration: ‘The demonstration, which included professional soldiers, was very important for the revolutionaries both military and civilians. It was a good, militantly anti-fascist demonstration, we are united.’

The soldiers always, on the left, always with the people.”

Thousand demonstrate in Oporto

From Robin Ellis, in Oporto

TWO THOUSAND soldiers demonstrated in the northern city of Oporto on Wednesday last week, followed by tens of thousands of civilian supporters.

They chanted ‘Down with Fiatop’—one of the leaders of the ‘moderate’ officers. ‘The soldiers always on the side of the people’ and ‘Portugal will not be another Chile’.

Oporto is one of the centres of the right-wing among the officers, who have succeeded in forcing out their former commander Carvalho, for his left-wing views. Wednesday’s demonstration showed that the rank and file do not support their officers’ views.

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‘The Armed Forces Movement no longer exists. Born by the same contradictions as Portuguese society, it has collapsed. The anti-fascist phase is over. The AFM has accomplished its historical role. Now is the time to choose: to stop in one’s tracks and accept a social democratic neo-capitalism, or to go forward to socialism, under no other choice.

He said that Matos Antunes and the group of nine ‘moderate’ officers who refused to submit to the new line have disappeared. But we know that in Portugal today that means increased oppression of the workers. That is why the social democracy of the ‘men’ is only a transition towards fascism.

Military police back commanders

The attack on the left-wing within the armed forces has already begun in the military police. This regiment has become one of the strongest supports of workers’ struggles in recent months. The oath of allegiance for new recruits is now to the struggle of workers for socialism.

But the attack was announced by the army that the first and second in command of the military police, Majors Andrade and Tore, were being replaced. This is seen as the first step towards disbanding the regiment.

A mass meeting of the regiment on Thursday decided to ‘give their support to the command of the unit, since it has continued to prove itself on the side of the fight of the workers.’
PORTUGAL: THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER

Socialist Worker public meetings, with speakers just returned from Portugal,

CENTRAL LONDON: Friday 19 September, 7pm, Camden Studios, Camden Town. Speaker: Dr Moniz Mendes, imprisoned in Portugal. Followed by a social. £1.
HUGGERSFIELD: Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Fraternity Hall, £1.
SOUTH EAST LONDON: SOCIAL: Friday 26 September, Thames Polytechnic, Woolwich. Speaker: Pio. All proceeds to Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

GIVE A POUND FOR PORTUGAL and have a great night out! Satur-
day 27 September, 7.30pm, Maypole Hotel, Pendlewell, Salford. Tickets, 50p, show, disco, raffle group and compare. All takings to SW Portugal Solidarity Fund. Organised by Greater Manchester. £1.

WEST YORKSHIRE SW day school: The Revolution in Portugal, and what we should do. Speaker: Chris Hamman. Discussion groups. Bradford Central Library, Saturday 4 October, 1 to 5pm.

SOCIALIST WORKER PORTUGAL

Portugal Solidarity Fund

OUR Portugal fund has been fully extended at the SW day school on the demonstration for the weekend. So far we have printed 12,000 posters, 100,000 leaflets and 68,000 stickers.

We have only been able to put out such massive publicity because of the generosity of readers of Socialist Worker in digging in their pockets to help the Portuguese revolution.

In the weeks ahead, our soli-
darity is going to be needed more than ever. The new government is saying it is going to crack down on "disorder" within the armed forces and to promote "private property". It is going to force big changes on the unions and workers.

Now that the Communist Party has agreed to join the right-wing parties in the government, the only organisations that will pro-
vide a real challenge to the right are the revolutionary left. They need all the support and solidarity we can offer.

Plainly, Socialist Worker supporters have been responding well to the challenge. Our fund this week produced £163.99. This included:

Sales of badges and posters £82.82. The poster on readers £25, Andy Jordan £20.50, North London £18.90. A design of a worker £11.52, from Norway, £13.95, from France, £7.40, two badges, £1 from ATTJ members in Swindon, £1 from Glenrothes, £1 from Ireland £2.50, Warwick University students £6.60, British Leyland, Triumph, Coventry £4.40, from a meeting in Germany, Kingston and District Trades Council £2, North London district saving £14, EETU members at Tooele Base £15.

Help us to raise money for Portugal. We have:

Collection sheets, for your factory, office, estate.
Posters, 50p each, including postage.
Badges (as above) 20p each, including postage.
Bankers’ order forms.
Send your orders and your money to the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cortons Gardens, London E2.

Germany 1919: Those who call for 'Moderation' open the way for fascism

SOCIALISTS who defend the revolution in Portugal, again and again, and meet a single, simple argument. 'Look', the argument runs, 'the Portuguese people have expressed their will in a general election. The most votes were won by the Socialist Party. Why don't the workers allow the Socialist Party to run the country under a parliamentary democracy?'

The argument is spurious and baseless. It was used on a wide scale during the great workers' revolution in Germany in 1918 and 1919. There the argument persuaded the vast majority of workers, with terrible consequences. The story of the betrayal of the German revolution is a grim warning to those in Portugal today who believe that democracy stops at parliamentary elections.

The German revolution broke out spontaneously after a meeting in the fleet at Kiel at the end of the First World War. It spread quickly throughout the country.

Weary of the war, and deter-
med to rid themselves of the officials and capitalists who had started it, the workers and soldiers elected councils in every work shop, mine, dock, and barracks. The councils ran the local ad

ministration and elected delegates to a national council. In a single week, the shop stewards and union officials who ran the councils proved under cover of the post-war chaos, a fair system of justice and a living press.

On 9 November, at the German Empire collapsed under the attack of the Socialists, the Communist Party leader, Fritz Ebert, became Chancellor.

Real power in Germany was held by the National Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils. But Ebert, like Marie Sorensen, the Socialist Party leader in Portugal today, demanded that the workers give up their power to an elected parliament.

False.

The argument ranged for several hours at a meeting of 3000 workers' council delegates in Berlin on 10 November. Ebert appealed to the delegates in the name of law and order to accept quick parliamentary elections and an interim government headed by himself. The left, led by the revolu-
tionary shop stewards' movement, argued for a government of workers' and soldiers' councils. Ebert won. His winning argu-
ment was that Germany had never before seen a parliamentary labour party, and that even if it were elected it could not see.

In the following days, the National Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils met in Berlin, and had the argument over again. By 396 votes to 98, they voted for their council's power to a new parliament.

At the same meeting, the dele-
eges passed a motion which de-
moted the demobilisation of the standing army and its replacement by workers' and soldiers' councils.

They voted unanimously against all badges of the old army of officers, and for control of the army by the soldiers' councils.

They accepted the delegates' surrender of power. But he re-
fused to demobilise the army. On the contrary, he started plotting among the old army officers, in Scourer's plot. The council was forced into an armistice. On 2 January 1919, the Berlin police chief-a socialist-was sacked by the Minister of the Interior. He refused to go. Massive demonstrations were called in his defence. Ebert waited until the demonstrations died down, and then ordered in ten battalions of the old officer corps, the Freikorps. A violent battle shook Berlin for a whole week. After a campa-

ign of coal-bored terror, the troops emerged victorious.

Drunk with their success, they sought out the well-known Communist leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. They were found killing their victims. They were thrown into a freezing river where they drowned.

Overthrow

Four days later, an officer who was convicted of these murders, was sentenced to six months in prison. 'Free elections' were held throughout Germany. The Social-
ists got 28 per cent of the poll-exactly the same percentage as in Portugal earlier this year.

Ebert was delighted. Was the vote not a mandate for his govern-
ment to destroy the workers' and soldiers' councils which had created the revolution?

He set about the task with gusto. His colleague, Gustav Noske, Minister of Defence, told the officers of the Freikorps that 'no mercy must be spared' in wiping out the workers' and soldiers' councils throughout Germany.

A vast army of nearly half a million men was recruited for the Freikorps. They were sent to fight the Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei in Bavaria. Admiral...
WHY ARE THESE MEN SO KEEN ON WORKERS' PARTICIPATION?

WORKERS' PARTICIPATION has suddenly won some strange converts: senior managers and directors who have spent their lives attempting to break trade union organisation.

Sir Arnold Weinstock, chairman of the giant General Electric Company (GEC) and the man responsible for tens of thousands of redundancies in the past five years, has joined the call for workers participation.

Don Lander, managing director of Chrysler UK, has the support of the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit, for his participation plans. John Ryden advocated it in his report on British Leyland.

But they want something in return. GEC want 5000 more redundancies in the next 12 months. British Leyland was up to 30,000. Chrysler have just put 17,000 on short time in preparation for redundancies.

The shop floor is being asked to take voluntary redundancies, natural wastage, a general reduction in manpower.

But what is it that Derek Robins, managing director of British Leyland Longbridge, Birmingham, Eddie McGarry, the British Leyland chairman, and John Carity, the Chrysler Linwood convenor, hope to get in return?

The managers have one thing in common. The participation will be done by senior shop stewards and convenors. But Eddie McGarry means the change will affect the basic structure of the new British Leyland. It means changing the board room, not as a trade union negotiation but as a director's role. The same will apply to other top trade union officials.

Meals

Most of the tin-pot committees will have no power over planning future car models; nor on deciding the distribution of profits and wages, or anything else that matters. Only a very few convenors will be given any real power.

But it will be a power far away from the men and women who elected them on the shop floor. There is already a serious problem about controlling full time union officials who spend six weeks away from the factory negotiating with management.

Don Lander who has thousands on short time at Chrysler.

The managers attached to all the schemes ensure that convenors will get far more out of touch. The schemes all include a commitment to national bargaining, compulsory arbitration, new and complicated lengthy bargaining procedures. It will be far more difficult for rank and file workers to control what their elected representatives do.

The talks between senior stewards and British Leyland management about the participation scheme give a taste of what is to come. Two senior stewards from the Cowley plant were given company transport to the talks. They stayed, together with other convenors and management, at some of the most luxurious hotels in Warwickshire, the Allesley Rooms cost the company up to £10 a night, without food.

Menus at the Allesley during the talks included Aubade Pear Vinaigrette, Roast Smoked Salmon, Half a roast duckling, Barbecued Roast Coq Au Vin, Encalope of veal Cordon Bleu, Duckling in honey and brandy sauce. Treat with prawns and capers.

Nearly it was a right caper. Will it be possible to recall the worker delegation, and some one in their place, and put them back on the factory line? In practice it will never happen.

The bosses see themselves have no illusions about workers participation. The Coventry Engineering Employers Federation made a survey of participation schemes on the Continent and came to the conclusion that such arrangements 'have hardly inhibited management's freedom to decide and act accordingly.'

Cost

In Coventry and the West Midlands, where industry is at its most modern, workers' participation is being pushed hardest. For it is here that the Renton's - under the guise of 'reorganisation' and 'rationalisation' of course - will be. Already in Coventry there are 17,259 on the dole and tens of thousands more on short time.

Management will not concede control over mass production line speeds, or hiring and firing. But each shop and section can take and exercise that control. If management won't replace a man who has left, then leave his job undone. If the line is speeded up, miss every third product.

This would not be participation in management decisions. But it would be shop floor control over immediate conditions. And it would be exercised by the democratic decision of the workers immediately affected.

We'll take it from there.

Shop floor control over manning levels, hiring and firing and line speeds.

A ban on all overtime.

A 35-hour week.

Five days work for five days pay.

Co-operation with any management who threatened short time.

Immediate occupation in the event of short time or redundancy.

Nationalisation of any company that cannot guarantee the right to work.

Sir Arnold Weinstock, who has sacked thousands at GEC.
Portugal: Stop the economic boycott.

IN PORTUGAL workers are fighting for socialism, for workers' control in society. We cannot allow that move to fail. The Socialist Workers' Committee and the Workers' Front, who have organized a boycott of trade union delegates, are fighting for socialism, and in trade union meetings they have been demanding that trade union delegates be taken out of the movement.

The workers' front is composed of unionists who are fighting for socialism, and in trade union meetings they have been demanding that trade union delegates be taken out of the movement.

Set up local "hands off Portugal" committees of trade union delegates.

Survey the anti-working-class propaganda with local groups, and in trade union meetings they have been demanding that trade union delegates be taken out of the movement.

Work for a national trade union delegate conference to discuss these issues. The committee can assist rank and file workers' organizations in Britain to support the workers' councils (CRST) in Portugal, if necessary independently of the TUC and the Labour Party.

Roger Cox, secretary of the Organizing Committee, told the London Evening News: "We are fighting for the freedom of the Portuguese workers. If the Portuguese workers have the freedom to organize, so will the workers in this country."

IS YOUR EMPLOYER HERE?

(Please contact your local branch of the Socialist Workers' Committee for more information.)

DO YOU AGIT-PROP?

AGIT-PROP stands for agitation and propaganda. We are holding a practical conference on agitation and propaganda on Saturday, 20th June, at the Polytechnic Institute, London. There will be workshops on how to write and produce leaflets, how to make and distribute posters, and how to organize political meetings.

For further information, contact the Socialist Workers' Committee, 109 Great Portland Street, London, W1.}

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LEBANON AS IRELAND

The bloody legacy of divide-and-rule

by Phil Marfleet

A FEW years back, when politicians spoke of a 'political' solution to the problems of Northern Ireland, they often referred to the situation in the Lebanon. But over the past few weeks, Lebanon, like Northern Ireland, has been on the verge of civil war.

As in Ireland, the apparent issue of stakes is religion. Again as in Ireland, the root causes are deeper. The inter-communal violence has existed for decades and the religious cleavages are often a cover for more fundamental issues of power distribution and control.

But Lebanon has been a case of a deep rift between Christians and Muslims, who have been at odds for centuries. This has led to a vicious cycle of violence, in which each community feels threatened and reacts with force.

The fighting has also involved various groups, including Hezbollah, a militant group that is supported by Iran and is considered a terrorist organization.

The situation in Lebanon is complex and continues to evolve, with no end in sight to the violence. The international community has struggled to find a solution, but so far without success.

Influence

In this way, the French played a group of one another and could get away with the spoils. Their efforts were rewarded with a mandate to end the First World War, when the French and British joined forces to defeat Germany. But they did not leave without ensuring that their interests would be taken into account.

They had previously ensured that the borders of Lebanon and Syria became a buffer zone to the French interests. They knew how to retain their precarious positions, and the French did not want to lose their influence in the region.

The constitution provided for the middle-class and Christian elites of all the religious groups to take part in the government. But leaders of the Christian community, known as the Maronites, held the dominant position. The prime minister was always a Maronite, with the government and the armed forces were controlled by the Christian majority. Most of the Lebanese ruling class was Christian.

Wanted

When the general Arab revolt against continuing Western domination threatened to upset this structure in 1958, American troops were sent in to stop it.

Within Lebanon itself, Christian domination has been backed by a movement similar in many ways to the Italian Christian organizations in the "Maronite" islands. The Ottoman Empire was formed in the 1930s, modelled on the Christian nation of France.

A large part of the people's Mạls of life are based on their social cohesion. The MLA has often been the power base for these groups. The MLA has always enjoyed the support of the 'People's Power Movement'. This movement has been involved in the establishment of some sort of workers' commissions.

But the MLA cannot be said to have a clear working-class strategy. They did not initiate the People's Power Movement, although they now support it. Indeed, they have supported workers' strikes in Lebanon. Their numerous agreements with the MLA and UNITE have shown a willingness, at least on behalf of the leadership, to flirt with a new coalition of left and centre-left forces.

The MLA view that socialism can be achieved as long as they can tolerate the whole of Lebanon is almost naive, especially since they rely entirely on the Maronite and influence outside Europe for support who of course have their own plans for Lebanon.

Despite these criticisms, it is important that socialism should support the MLA. All three 'Liberation movements' opposed Portuguese rule. But the MLA has put up the most consistent fight against imperialism in its many forms.

The FNL stands for the domination of one tribe and the dictatorship of one man. UNITA is merely a cheaper brand of the same product. Victory for either—or both—would be a victory for big business, which would be allowed to carve up mineral-rich Angola and increase the exploitation of the mass of the Angolans.

Expanding

The popular movement for the liberation of Angola (MPLA) has been gaining support in recent weeks. They now control 11 of the 15 districts. At the same time it is clear that pressure is being stepped up outside Angola in a bid to ensure that the liberation movement does not gain support in the interests of big business.

The movement has been demonstrated by the increased support received by the Movement of Angolans (UNITA) and by the direct intervention of South African troops in southern Angola.

Defeat

The MLA has held the FNLA north of Luanda near Cabo on a large scale for the past four years. In the south they have defeated FNLA forces in Luanda and Luanda is an important port. The south MLA have defeated defeated joint UNIA/FNL/ FNLA forces in a number of towns, and the MLA has held control only a small, although important, region around Angola's second city of Nova Lisboa.

A large part of the MLA's success has been due to their popular support. The MLA have often been the power base for these groups. The MLA have always enjoyed the support of the 'People's Power Movement'. This movement has been involved in the establishment of some sort of workers' commissions.

But will Signor Serge actually attend? The seminar is sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and heads of major figures of the US establishment. The session will be attended by Signor Serge's presence, which will not be a surprise to the US officials. Nonetheless the US authorities are not expected to have done anything to oppose the seminar's proceedings. The seminar is open to all interested parties.

by Peter Alexander

NAMIBIA

Africa

President "Newly" of Zambia, who acts in America's interest, has been invited to a high-powered foreign policy seminar in the United States this October.

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THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA)

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Zambia

Zaire

Nambia

UNITA to provide yet another complacent black buffer-state to hinder the prospects of revolution in South Africa.

It is not impossible that South Africa's military intervention is a sign that she wants to open a supply route to UNITA. Kaunda is particularly concerned about the Benguela railway, which provides the main means of exporting Zambian copper, which is the chief economic base for his own political survival.

The role of the Portuguese has been ambiguous. Although the high command has generally supported FNLA, they have been some occasions when members of the rank and file have supported the MPLA. Individual Portuguese capitalists have supported both FNLA and UNITA, and FNLA, particularly, employs large numbers of renegade Portuguese soldiers.

The Angolan people under the leadership of the MPLA have won great victories, but there is a lot of stake in mineral-rich Angola. So the involvement of outside interests is enormous. The MPLA needs all the support it can get.

In this country the Angola Solidarity Committee (ASC) has been formed to rally support for the MPLA. Get your union branch or office to the ASC and pass yourself. The address is c/o Gifford, 6 Bowden Street, London SE11.
LET those who marched with Hackney Trades Council away from the National Front demonstration in the East End of London consider their tactics. Will their demonstration—a show of numerical strength and the magic of the labour movement banners—in any way deter the National Front from intimidating black people? No. The only way to stop these people is by using that strength to bar their way.—JOHN SMITH, Ilford

THE NATIONAL FRONT: Bar their way.

THE NATIONAL FRONT marching two weeks ago with the banner even the police condemned as "openly racist". The organiser of the counter demonstration carefully avoided the route of the Front.

Pluto 1976

Big Red Diary

An illustrated political diary

This year it records women in history, women at work, women as mothers and women at war in words and pictures

For argument as well as entertainment: £1

Read booklets

ON THE BOX

STANLEY BAXTER's picture show are back this week, London Weekend, Sun, Friday. The first of three special contains some really marvellous humour including a delightful "Royal Wedding Phone-in".

The Search Party TV has "top of the week" reviews. This week's pick is "Buddies". They can also feel good. Halfway through the programme they give away quids to a "good cause of the week". Last week it was a disabled man in Newcastle, who was due for a shock. I found that the local council could no longer afford to provide for his needs and he's ended up on the streets. The council can no longer afford to provide for his needs and he's ended up on the streets.

The Powells and Redditors are a real treat. They really make it worth while. They can also feel good. Halfway through the programme they give away quids to a "good cause of the week". Last week it was a disabled man in Newcastle, who was due for a shock. I found that the local council could no longer afford to provide for his needs and he's ended up on the streets. The council can no longer afford to provide for his needs and he's ended up on the streets.
‘ROUGH JUSTICE’ or, The Park and the park-keeper

APARALOE OF OUR TIME

ON the left is Fred Winter, pictured in the Grosvenor Square Park, Salford, where he is a watchman. Fred is stop stower for the General and Municipal Workers, which has 30 members in his park.

This week the union put in a claim for £6, under the Education Bill, for the journey to the hearing. They are looking for a minimum rate of 30s. They want to make up for stops but are not unduly hopeful of success.

‘£6 is an 18 per cent rise. But prices have gone up by 20 per cent since last November when we last got a rise.

‘Of course we don’t even get the £6. At least £2 extra in tax, and lots of workers in our range will lose subsidies, free school meals and so on.

The employers tell us we can have £3.

‘It’s a most unfortunate thing. But if they think they have completely understood that council workers have to eat. Very sad, but necessary.

‘I remember when Heath was driving round in London and there was a traffic jam and he had to walk through the rain. He was so angry he rang up a phone call half way round the world to complain about it to his chum on the GLC who was in Tokyo.

‘Now they tell us that our kids have to walk to school if they live more than a mile from school unless we can afford £2 a week.

‘Either the fares or an overcoat. We’re wondering if we can afford either.

There have been many strikes by workers since the collection of waste was introduced.

SURRENDER UNION TELLS FOOD WORKERS

LONDON:– The 600 workers sacked by London Bakers’ Union were advised by their union to accept redundancies.

‘They had been called for a voting.

‘Most of the workers are immigrants from Turkey. The union claims that the workers were given a choice but there was no guarantee of a job.

‘In the meantime, the workers have set up a committee to look into the matter.

WORKERS at Norton Villiers Triumph, Wolverhampton, churning out their raw UHL motorcycles, which they have built in the few weeks since their factory was closed by its owners. The workers are sitting in, working on the new models and looking for possibilities for new orders.

Many workers have been laid off and others have been transferred to other plants.

The management has offered some compensation, but the workers have refused to accept it.

‘There is a strike in your area why not raise it at your union branch or stop shops committee’s meeting. We’ll be pleased to help you organise.

The strike is expected to continue for some time.

Labour Councillors Threaten School

by Geoff Hurtle, (North London Teachers Association)

IS THIS A SCHOOL OR ASCAN-

BALK? asked the Evening News.

They had just sent three children from the William Tyndale Junior School in North London to an educational psychologist. The psychologist said the children should be withdrawn from the school. The parents were not aware of this decision.

‘This is just part of a systematic attack on the school by the press and right-wing members of Islington Council, which is a 100 per cent Labour.

The attacks began after the school employed Douglas McVicar, a former member of the National Union of Teachers. The school had just been subjected to an attack for its scorched-earth campaign against the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) because of her militant stance on teaching issues.

The parents have included the appearance of a ‘Black Paper’ on the school, encouraging parents to move their children from the school.

A secret petition was circulated among parents asking the school council who are also school governors calling upon ILEA ‘to take urgent steps to re-establish public confidence in the Junior School’.

Enthusiasm about the new model must not deflect workers from the hard realities ahead of them. The management still try to get their hands on their machines by means of vulgar promises about future market.

LAURIBOY COUCLILLOWS THREATEN SCHOOL

and especially teachers to give full support to the William Tyndale staff. If we allow this political manipulation to go ahead it will entail the closure of the school.

The right-wing council and school management must not be allowed to succeed.

Every teacher who receber this issue should raise the issue in their school NUT branch and local association–spokesmen can be supplied.

Further information from Jeff Hurford, 19 William Street, London, N7. More support will be passed on to the staff.
THE elections in the Engineering Union on 3 October could decide the balance of forces between right and left.

Wells, like many other trade unionists, is voting for their candidate by post and the votes will be counted on 5 October. The right and left are both aiming for a majority, but the outcome is uncertain.

The left-wing candidate, John Deason, has the support of the TUC and the left-wing Labour Party. He is also backed by many trade unionists who believe that the right is trying to divide the workforce.

The right-wing candidate, Bob Wright, is backed by the employers' organizations and is supported by many trade unionists who believe that the left is trying to divide the workforce.

The result of the election will have a major impact on the future of the union and the workforce as a whole.

Wills is the only one in the union who has not yet made up his mind how to vote. He is likely to be influenced by the outcome of the election in other unions and by the views of his colleagues in the workplace.

The outcome of the election will have a major impact on the future of the union and the workforce as a whole. It will also have implications for the Labour Party and the TUC, who are both hoping to influence the outcome in their favour.

AUEW RANK AND FILE MEET THEIR RIVAL WING CHALLENGE

WILLIE LEE: Can you talk about the role of rank and file in the union and how they can influence the election?

BOB WRIGHT: I think the rank and file play a crucial role in determining the outcome of the election. They have the power to decide whether the union is led by a left-wing or right-wing wing. They can also vote for the candidates who they believe will best represent their interests.

WILLIE LEE: But how can rank and file members ensure that their voices are heard and that their concerns are addressed in the election?

BOB WRIGHT: Rank and file members can ensure that their voices are heard by getting actively involved in the election process. They can do this by attending union meetings, discussing the candidates and issues with their colleagues, and encouraging others to vote.

WILLIE LEE: Can you give an example of how rank and file members have influenced the election in the past?

BOB WRIGHT: In the past, rank and file members have been successful in electing left-wing candidates who have subsequently been able to push through their agenda.

WILLIE LEE: Do you believe that the right-wing wing is capable of winning the election?

BOB WRIGHT: I think it is possible, but only if the rank and file members are not engaged and do not vote. It is essential that the rank and file members are actively involved in the election and make their voices heard.

Scottish candidates Jimmy Reid

PICTURES ON THIS PAGE: Chris Davies (Report)

SOCIALIST WORKER believes that the first priority is to keep the right wing out. This will mean voting in some cases for the very men whose intrigues have put the left in power at risk.

Socialist Worker urges its readers to support in the executive elections.

JIMMY REID of the Communist Party against Graham Laird, on the Scottish seat.

BOB WRIGHT against Terry Duffy, on the Manchester and Midlands seat.

P BRAMALL for the North West seat.

In the national companion election there are 17 candidates. The Communist Party is fielding a number, but there is only one place. Their candidates are Phil Bilton, of Harrow and Lee Allen, of Salford.

Syndicalist Worker urges its readers to support the candidates who are supported by the rank and file.

WILLIE LEE of the International Socialist Party is the only candidate whose election address is known. He is a cross-boundary national wage claimer, a national fighter for the 15-hour week, and strong district and shop steward organization to counter working interdepartmental strikes.

The sitting assistant general secretary, KEN BRETT of the Broad Left, is defending his position against the right wing.

The postal ballot means that the election addresses distributed to the branches will have a limited effect. The results of the last round were distorted by a major campaign in the newspapers in favour of 'moderate' candidates.

The pressure brought on the election addresses from the branches and the TUC is continuing to receive huge response. The result of the election will have a major impact on the future of the union and the workforce as a whole.
by Peter Bain, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood, SCOTLAND: Chrysler kept up its offensive against the Linwood shop floor last week. After rejecting over-lay-offs, the shop stewards made another body swap to avoid a fight over the introduction of new man assignments. The move was made to fasten the management that they are up to the job. On Thursday night they tried to lay off 86 men in vehicle assembly. All 86 are at 35 minutes notice. To pull their faces in the management told those affected that they would have to come to work the next day to collect their wages. In the union assembly, sections walked off the floor when they were told. A meeting of the 600 shop workers in the building unannounced decided to report for work the next day to call for support if they were locked out. The faces of this threat to involve the entire workforce, the company backed away.

CUT

The decision to send the men up the ramp to the workroom would be evaluated by the company, and agreed to by everyone involved for any time lost. Chrysler want to get their revamped model under the cover of the Court Motor Show in October. They want the press and machine shop to work to avoid interuptions to meetings scheduled. We could have used this situation to force our demands. Instead, most of the senior stewards have backed away from the company and have strangely avoided public meetings. The mass meeting to gear the workforce up for a fight. Sutpiions are growing that the convenors are hoping Chrysler will declare redundancies. This is seen by some as a 'solution' despite their opposition to sacking. In fact redundancies would only cheat Chrysler's appetite and would be followed by further attacks. At

ready there is doubt about how long Chrysler will stick to its policy on the sale of two British car assembly plants at Linwood and Ryton, Coventry at a fraction of their capacity. We may soon have to fight for the existence of the factory. A campaign should be mounted now to prepare for the struggles ahead. This would have to be organised on a large-scale, we should hope, that factory occupations and other actions, while what they have won was needed to preserve the government to guarantee jobs and conditions in the car industry.

Cardiff victims need support

CARDIFF: An action committee has been set up by 11 women victims of trickery by Channel 4's reporter. The 11 women are paid to report for the programme and are found to be repercussions. The local branch of the Public Employers Union (UEW) advised that they will be no redundancies, is considering taking action to oppose the closures. So it is up to local trade unions to organise against this attack on working class health standards.

The British Film Industry Action Committee against the Cuts, a committee of delegates from cinema workers, local authorities, and industrial trade union branches in the East Midlands, can play an important role in opposing this attack on working class health standards. The closure, all staff vacancies to be filled, and reinstatement of wasted staff to be treated.

Some light on Lucas

Counter Information Services, CIS, have produced another anti-report. Number 12 in the series is called WHERE IS LUCAS? And where is the Lucas job? Like all the previous CIS anti-reports it is packed full of interesting and often vital information for shop floor militants. Socialist Worker.

The report is available from CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, Price 45p plus 15p postage and packing.

ACTION TO FIGHT RACISM IN THE WORKING CLASS:

Special meeting in London on Saturday, 12th August at 7.30 at the TUC Congress Hall.CASUAL CRESCENT, London E2 BS5. Register as a newspaper with the Post Office.

Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU1 all depart.

Swansea Strike saves 50 jobs

Swansea. Last week a strike by 300 machine and electrical construction workers secured the 50 men of the 18 machines. The workers are demanding a new contract worth £150,000. It is a victory for the recently formed Joint Engineering Workers' Committee on the Alcos site, a 30 million pound aluminium works expansion.

The agreement between the workers and the company is 90% complete on the Alcos site, a 30 million pound aluminium works expansion.

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BLASTFURNACEMEN:
Steel
bosses
are
the
real
wreckers

BY PAUL FOOT

The attack on the blastfurnacemen is an attempt to weaken their union so that Sir Monty and his Corporation can carry out mass sackings throughout the industry.

The blastfurnacemen's fight is not 'the selfish grab of a few craftsmen' (Daily Mail). It is a battle for workers everywhere who are threatened with mass sackings and inflation.

It is the battle of the railwaymen and the Post Office workers and car workers who are told every day to brace themselves for the 'pruning' of tens of thousands of jobs.

VICTORY TO THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS!
Demonstrate:
Saturday 20 September, 2pm Charing Cross Embankment to Speakers' Corner

SIR Monty Finniston and his friends on the 'British Steel Corporation have launched a hysterical attack on the blastfurnacemen. These men work in some of the most noisy, dirty and dangerous conditions in the country.

Yet now they are attacked as 'greedy' by millionaires and by newspaper hacks who earn five times as much for less than a quarter of the effort.

The new No 3 furnace at Llanwern, which has caused the dispute, is the prototype for similar furnaces which British Steel intends to build all over the country. These will halve the number of blastfurnacemen in the country - a total loss of 8000 jobs!

The men's union, the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, is prepared to 'sell' jobs for money. They have submitted a claim for men who work on the new furnace which would raise their pay from about £60 to about £15 a week.

The £100 a week that the pneumo have been making such a fuss about would be earned at full production by the very top grade, that's four people in the whole furnace crew.

JOBS

In long draw-out negotiations over 18 months, British Steel adamantly refused to pay anything like the claim. Last week, they made a 'final offer' which gives the men a miserable £5 a week extra on basic pay.

For this pittance, the Corporation has been demanding 'total acceptance' of their mass sackings, which could lead to 2000 sackings at Llanwern alone.

There would be a harder, more dangerous life for those left at work. 'Casting' at the new furnace, which exposes workers to molten hot metal, would take place 12 times a day, instead of six times in the existing furnaces. It is hardly surprising they rejected the 'offer'.

British Steel went ahead with commissioning the new plant, ignoring the union's claim, knowing it would provoke a strike.

There has been a carefully-orchestrated campaign of hate against the blastfurnacemen from the Fleet Street press. 'They're prepared to cut steel production!' shouted the editorial.

Not one commentator has pointed out that August's British steel production was down by almost a quarter on last year. Not because the workers weren't prepared to work. Not because steel goods are not needed all over the world. But because of the crazy profit system which Sir Monty Finniston and the press barons are determined to maintain.

SATURDAY'S COACHES FOR PORTUGUESE DEMONSTRATION
LEEDS: 8am, University main entrance LOWESTOF: 8am, Lowestoft Royal Free NORWICH: 9.45am, Theatre Royal RIVERSE: 7am, Electricity House HALIFAX: 8am, Odnor BRADFORD: 8am, Morley Street FRIMBROOK: 9am, The Royal Arms YORK: 8am, Exhibition Square NORTHAMPTON: 11.30am, Boston Guildhall ROAD: TYNESIDE: 7am, St Mary's Place, Newcastle SHEFFIELD: 8am, Redcliffe Lane (Pure Street Station) DUNDEE: 10.30am, Friday, 1st Floor Bar, Hays later LONDON: 8am, Friday, Shad Thames

ACCORDING to the British Steel Corporation and the entire British press, sackings and redundancies are for the 'good of the country'.

By our calculations, redundancy and increased unemployment are no benefit at all. Even on the money front, it's worth asking a few questions. We reckon that the maximum BSC can save by ruthlessly sacking the blastfurnacemen is £25,000 a week or £1.3 million a year. Make no mistake, BSC really do.

ned that money. They've just given Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons a cool £14 million contract for a steelwork at Scunthorpe. BSC paid the McAlpine's without a murmur, which must have brought joy to the many members of the Clan McAlpine throughout Britain.

Just to pay off McAlpine's little extras the BSC will have to devote 11 years' worth of savings from the Llanwern furnace. And if they want to pay off just one year's worth of bank charges (£67 million last year) it'll take them half a century of the same. That's progress.

Remainder to sell Socialist Worker and badges on the march and trains coming down to London for the demonstration. London branch must have sellers of the demonstration by 7pm.